MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The Department did not make any attempt.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): In view of the admission that the Department has not made any attempt so far in collecting and felling the top-ends and outer-slabs of timbers cut down in forests for fire-wood, may I know how the Government have come to the conclusion that no one will care to collect them even if allowed on seigniorage rate or less?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The cost of collection can be ascertained from the cost of collection of ordinary timber.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know when the cost of collection was ascertained?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): There is no particular date on which it was ascertained. The department knows the cost of collection.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government the cost of collection that the department knows?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): It is not a definite question. The cost of collection depends on the timber and also the place from which it has to be collected.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware that, in excluding the collection of timber for fire-wood, the Forest Department loses a great revenue?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Government are not of that opinion.

PRESIDENT: The questions on the agenda of yesterday will now be taken up.

English School at Vamanapuram.

60. ***MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the people of Nedumangad taluk, when they presented addresses of welcome to the Dewans Mr. T. Austin and Sir Muhammad Habibullah, made a demand that an English Middle School be started at Vamanapuram;

(*b*) whether the Co-operative Society at Vamanapuram has purchased land for the purpose of starting an English School at Vamanapuram and applied for sanction to start the school by the beginning of the new school year; and

(*c*) whether the sanction has been accorded by the Director of Public Instruction?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*):

(*a*) The information is not available.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government why sanction has not yet been accorded for the starting of an English Middle School at Vamanapuram?

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MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The matter is still under investigation.

Free pass applications in the Forest Department.

61. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether stamp duty is levied for free pass applications in the Forest Department:

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, whether the Government are aware that in the Quilon Forest Division, the levy of stamp duty is being insisted upon by the Divisional Forest Officer there; and

(*c*) whether the Conservator of Forests has verified this fact?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Stamp duty is levied on free pass applications only in such cases where the applicant for the pass happens to be merely the purchaser of the timber belonging to the registry-holder. But in all other cases where the applicant is the original registry-holder and when he applies for pass for removal of timber, etc., from his own holding, no stamp duty is levied.

(*b*) *Vide* answer to part (*a*).

(*c*) Since the Divisional Forest Officer himself has reported that stamp duty is levied in certain cases only in pursuance of G. O. No. 4399/F. & M. R./434 of 1919, dated the 6th November 1919, no verification of the fact is called for.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether any distinction is made in the department in the various Forest Divisions in regard to levy of stamp duty for applications for free passes?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No distinction is made.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the allegation contained in part (*b*) of the question was pointedly referred to the Conservator by the Government? That is, I want to know whether the Conservator was asked by Government whether it was a fact that there was levying of stamp duty by the D. F. O., Quilon.

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): It was not necessary to make any reference. In some cases, stamp duty is levied.

MR. E. V KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Is the stamp duty levied in respect of applications for trees on registered holdings?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): In the case of purchasers of timber from registered holders, stamp duty is realised.

Aruvikara trace.

62. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the distance of the Aruvikara trace from Nedumangad town to Aruvikara Water Works construction; and

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